

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. PG 08-4-55

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Post Office/Town Hall

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 6220 Rhode Island Avenue

☐ not for publication

city, town Riverdale

☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland

county Prince George's County

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Surrinder K. Arora

street & number

telephone no.:

city, town

state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 6530

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 828

city, town Upper Marlboro

state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Riverdale's first established Post Office and City Hall stand at 6220 Rhode Island Avenue, Block 34/Lot 19, constructed circa 1924, according to tax assessments. The one-story, white-painted, common-bond brick structure faces east onto Rhode Island. The facade is five bays wide with a central glass, double door and two windows to either side. Six brick pilasters, with plain base and capital, separate each bay and accentuate the facade divisions. Above the pilasters a slight recess of the wall extending across the entire facade that has been infilled with board, as if covering an old sign or waiting for a new. The modern door is reached by two cement stairs. The windows, with brick flat arches and lintels, are divided into three parts- a horizontal rectangle at the top with central-opening casement windows below. Ghosting on the sidewalk and plaster repair to the pilaster bases indicate removal of extending showcase windows, as the 1924 Sanborn Insurance map of Riverdale does not indicate any, these are believed to be from later alterations. The Sanborn also indicates an iron cornice which is now gone.

The north and south facades are identical- four-bays long with a window, with bricks lintels, in all but the third bay from the east which contains a door. A stepped roof lowers towards the west with a chimney midpoint of the roofline. A narrow alley allows passage to the rear by either side.

The rear of the building has a small yard separated by a steep incline and chain-link fence from the Calvert family cemetery, located directly behind it. The west facade is five bays wide with a window in both of the end and central bays with a door in the second bay inward from each end. The roof has been covered with modern shingles.

The building is currently for sale and is inaccessible to the public. The interior space has been divided into offices to either side of a central hall.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates****Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Riverdale, Maryland, was a creation of the Riverdale Park Company, established by New Yorker John Fox and partners, on the Riversdale estate, home to descendants of Maryland founder Lord Baltimore. As a Washington suburb, Riverdale was chiefly dependent upon the nation's capital for commercial needs until the 1910's when Riverdale's own mercantile area was constructed on Rhode Island Avenue, adjacent to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks and directly opposite the original depot site. A conglomeration of approximately eight stores served the city in various commercial capacities throughout the years until the city's focus was shifted to Baltimore Avenue with the advent of the car. This store grouping is now largely vacant, but those operating stores draw a loyal clientele, keeping the area active.

6220 Rhode Island Avenue has served Riverdale as various businesses. Perhaps one of its most important functions was as the city's first established Post Office and City Hall. Prior to its construction circa 1924, these municipal practices were conducted out of donated space in residents' homes and the nearby Presbyterian Church. Though there is no citizen remembrance of the buildings function as City Hall, the Sanborn Fire Insurance map of Riverdale for 1924 clearly indicates the structure's dual operation. The facade's formal appearance symbolizes its importance. The Sanborn also indicated the structure as one of few brick buildings. Though the building is vacant, it is in good condition with only minor alterations to both the interior and exterior, already noted. With the proper owner, this building would easily be a contributing element in today's Riverdale.

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PS-2746